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(54) **Automatic image cropping**

(57) The present invention describes a method for automatic cropping of images containing regions where intensity levels are uniform and other regions where intensity levels vary considerably. An image to be automatically cropped is scaled down to a grid and divided into non-overlapping blocks. The mean and variance of

an intensity level are calculated for each block. Based on the distribution of variances in the blocks, a threshold is selected for the variance. All blocks with a variance higher than this threshold variance are selected as regions of interest. The regions of interest are then cropped to a bounding rectangle.



FIG.3A

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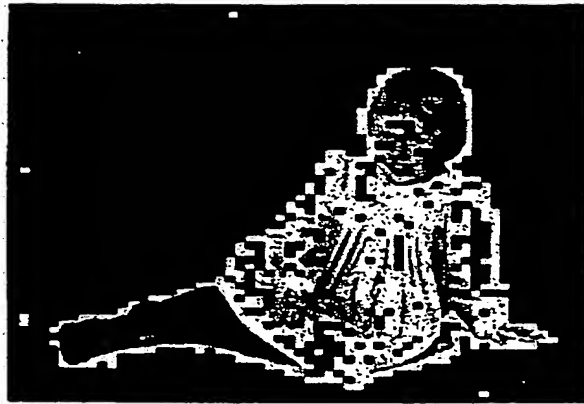


FIG. 3B



FIG. 3C



FIG. 3D



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 9 April 2002	Examiner Herter, J
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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